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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 23 April 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the enclosed statement by the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, His Excellency Mr. Slobodan Milosevic. I would be grateful if you would have it circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 113 (b) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/53/50.

ANNEX

Statement by President of Yugoslavia

The President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, made the following statement to the press after casting his ballot in today's referendum:

"This is a referendum of Serbia deciding on Serbia.

"Serbia is a State of all its citizens and their interests, the interests of the people, are the guideposts for all policies.

"I believe that we can settle all our current concerns. I believe that just, peaceful and humane solutions can be found for the concerns related to the life of different nations and people living together.

"If we did not believe in the possibility of a joint life of different nations and people, there would be no future for this entire region of the Balkans and southeastern Europe.

"I want to urge the Albanian leaders in Kosovo to start the talks with the representatives of the Serbian government as soon as possible.

"I want to tell them also that the government's approach is based on entirely good intentions.

"They should steer clear of the world's soul saviours, who have their own interests, rather than other people's interests, at heart.

"All of us living here should resolve our problems together because we have nowhere else to go but stay here on our land in our country.

"I believe in success in this respect as well, and I think that we can be optimistic."